

STATE BOARD OF NURSING

MYRA A BROADWAY, JD, MS, RN, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Central Office: 161 CAPITOL ST., AUGUSTA, ME 04330

Mail Address: 158 STATE HOUSE STATION, AUGUSTA, ME 04333

Established: 1915

Telephone: (207) 287-1133

Reference: Policy Area: 07; Umbrella: 02; Unit: 380; Citation: T0032 M.R.S.A., Sect. 000002151

Average Count--All Positions: 7.000

Legislative Count: 7.00

PURPOSE

The State Board of Nursing was established to protect the public through regulation of nursing practice in the State of Maine so as to maintain high professional standards. The primary responsibilities of the Board, by law, are to license, by examination or endorsement, all applicants qualified to practice as registered nurses, licensed practical nurses or as advanced practice nurses; to renew the licenses of all qualified registered nurses, practical nurses and advanced practice nurses; to investigate complaints of unsafe nursing practice or any violation of laws relating to nursing; and determine, in collaboration with the Attorney General, if the case should be presented for a formal hearing by the Administrative Court; to adopt rules and regulations governing licensure of nurses and other matters within its jurisdiction; to approve programs of training that prepare certified nursing assistants to perform selected nursing services when such services are delegated by a registered nurse.

Additional responsibilities of the Board are to prescribe curricula and establish standards for educational programs preparing persons for licensure as registered nurses or as licensed practical nurses; to approve nursing educational programs in the State as meet the requirements of law and the standards established by the Board; to survey all such nursing educational programs as deemed necessary to determine that the requirements of the law and Board standards are being maintained; to deny or withdraw approval from such nursing educational programs for failure to meet requirements; and to approve the credentials of registered nurses who have completed an educational program that prepares the registered nurse to function as an advanced practice registered nurse. An advanced practice registered nurse includes the following: certified nurse practitioner, certified nurse-midwife, certified registered nurse anesthetist and certified clinical nurse specialist.

ORGANIZATION

The State Board of Nursing was originally created as the Board of Examination and Registration of Nurses in 1915 and received its present name in 1959. From 1947 until 1961, the Board's

office was located in Lewiston. In 1961, the office was moved to Portland, and in 1973, it was relocated to Augusta.

In 1991, the Board of Nursing was affiliated with the Department of Professional and Financial Regulation.

In 1995, an advanced practice registered nurse member was added to the Board of Nursing, which changed the composition of the Board as follows: six registered professional nurses, one licensed practical nurse, and two representatives of the public. All members are appointed by the Governor for terms of four years. The Board annually elects from its membership a chairperson and a secretary. Also, the Board appoints and employs an executive director, assistant executive director, and other qualified persons, not members of the Board.

PROGRAM

During fiscal year 2011, the Board met in four regular sessions for a total of eight days; the Board met in nine subcommittee sessions for a total of nine days; the Board met in twelve adjudicatory hearing sessions for a total of nine days. In addition, Board members participated in committee meetings; served as visitors on site visits to educational programs in nursing; served on committees of the National Council of State Boards of Nursing; and represented the Board at conferences or meetings with individuals or groups on matters pertinent to Board business. A major responsibility of the Board of Nursing is the licensure of practitioners of nursing. The law provides that licensure as a registered nurse or as a licensed practical nurse in this State may be obtained by examination or endorsement of a license legally issued by the licensing authority of another state or country. On July 1, 2001, Maine implemented the Interstate Compact which allows for recognition of the registered professional nurse's license and licensed practical (or vocational) nurse's license if the nurse is from another Compact state.

A second major responsibility of the Board of Nursing is approval of all basic nursing programs that prepare persons for licensure in Maine, either as registered nurses or as licensed practical nurses. Maine has 19 Board-approved nursing programs: 13 to prepare registered nurses and five to prepare practical nurses. The names of these programs follow: Baccalaureate Degree Nursing Programs: University of Southern Maine; St. Joseph's College; Husson University/E.M.M.C.; University of Maine; and University of Maine at Fort Kent. Associate Degree Nursing Programs: Central Maine Medical Center; University of Maine at Augusta; Kennebec Valley Community College; University of New England; Northern Maine Community College; Central Maine Community College; Eastern Maine Community College; and Southern Maine Community College. In addition, the University of Southern Maine has a generic Masters in Nursing Program for Non-Nurses. Practical nursing programs are approved to be offered at the community colleges and currently, Intercoast Career Institute has an initial approval to offer a practical nursing program.

A third major responsibility of the Board of Nursing is to impose sanctions on licensees who violate the law through the exercise of its legal, investigative and disciplinary program. During fiscal year 2011, the Board received 282 provider reports or complaints of illegal or unsafe nursing practice. The Board took the following actions in FY 2011: revocation of license (4); suspended license (16); accepted voluntary surrender of license (21); placed license on probation (20); warned, censured, reprimanded or fined (14); terminated probation (3); took no action/dismissed complaint (123); license renewal denied (0); fined for unlicensed practice (126); denied licensure by endorsement (0); denied licensure by examination (1); denied reinstatement (2); letters of concern were issued (59).

In November, 2005, the Board successfully launched its online licensure renewal program with an average utilization rate of 95%.

LICENSES

Nurses licensed by Endorsement during Fiscal Year 2011:

Registered Professional Nurses from other states: (715), from Canada: (6), from other countries: (11)

Licensed Practical Nurses: from other states: (59), from Canada: (1), from other countries (0).

Nurses licensed by Examination during Fiscal Year 2011:

Registered Professional Nurses (669)

Licensed Practical Nurses (103)

Nurses licensed by Renewal and Reinstatement during Fiscal Year 2011:

Registered Professional Nurses licensed by: Renewal (9,641), Reinstatement (481)

Licensed Practical Nurses licensed by: Renewal (1,130), Reinstatement (82)

TOTAL ACTIVE LICENSES:

Registered Professional Nurses: 21,973 (including 1,649 APRN)

Licensed Practical Nurses: 2,664

PUBLICATIONS

Law Regulating the Practice of Nursing (available on website)

Rules and Regulations of the Maine State Board of Nursing (available on website)

Prescribed Curriculum for Nursing Assistant Training Programs (\$10.00)

Standardized Medication Course for Certified Nursing Assistants (\$10.00)